

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-1514V

UNPUBLISHED

MARGARET COOPER-HENDON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: September 12, 2022

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision based on Proffer;  
Table Injury; Influenza (Flu); Guillain-  
Barré syndrome (GBS).

*Ronald Craig Homer, Conway, Homer, P.C., Boston, MA, for Petitioner.*

*Katherine Carr Esposito, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION ON DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On June 25, 2021, Margaret Cooper-Hendon filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that as a result of receiving the influenza (“flu”) vaccination on October 29, 2019, she suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”). Petition at Preamble. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioners have 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On March 25, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding that Petitioner was entitled to compensation for a GBS Table injury. On September 12, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation, which indicates Petitioner's agreement to the amount(s) therein. Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$127,476.61 (representing \$125,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$2,476.61 for unreimbursed expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
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MARGARET COOPER-HENDON,

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v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 21-1514V  
Chief Special Master Corcoran

**PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION<sup>1</sup>**

**I. Procedural History**

On June 25, 2021, Margaret Cooper-Hendon (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, *as amended*. She alleges that, as a result of receiving the influenza vaccine on October 29, 2019, she suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”). *See* Petition. On March 24, 2022, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, concluding that petitioner suffered GBS as defined by the Vaccine Injury Table, within the Table timeframe. On March 25, 2022, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a ruling on entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation for a GBS Table injury.

**II. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$127,476.61**, for all damages, including \$125,000.00 representative of pain and

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<sup>1</sup> This Proffer does not include attorneys’ fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

suffering, and \$2,476.61 representative of out-of-pocket medical and related expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**III. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: A lump sum payment of **\$127,476.61** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup> Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

s/Katherine C. Esposito  
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Dated: September 12, 2022